Carleton Football Report - Week Four

Carleton-Augsburg Preview

Matchup: Carleton College (0-3, 0-3 MIAC) travels outside the city limits of Northfield for the first time this season, travelling to Minneapolis to face Augsburg College (2-2, 1-1 MIAC) at Edor Nelson Field at 1 p.m.

Broadcast: Northfield’s KRDS 95.5 FM will carry the game, with the pregame show beginning at 12:45 p.m., followed by the kickoff at 1 p.m. The game is also available live via Carleton’s athletics Web site at www.carleton.edu/athletics/broadcasts. KCCO 950 AM will also carry the game for Augsburg.

Coaches: Carleton’s Chris Brann (West Virginia Wesleyan ’91) is 0-23 in his third season at Carleton. Augsburg head coach Jack Osberg (Augsburg ’62) is in his 13th season and has a 57-68 career mark. He’s the winningest coach in the history of Augsburg football.

Series: The Knights lead the series with the Auggies, 12-10, but Augsburg has won six consecutive games in the series. The two schools first met in 1978, when Carleton was still a member of the Midwest Conference; Augsburg and Carleton have played each season since the Knights rejoined the MIAC in 1983. The Auggies are 6-5 all-time at Edor Nelson Field against the Knights, and Carleton hasn’t beaten the Auggies on the road since Oct. 31, 1992, a span of four games.

Scouting Augsburg: The Auggies have opened the 2003 campaign by splitting their first four four contests, rallying past Jamestown College (N.D.) and St. Olaf College for their two victories.

The Auggie defense is paced by defensive backs Jordan Hastings (35 tackles) and Jim Gunderson (32 tackles). All-MIAC second team linebacker Brandon Fox has tallied 32 tackles with 5.5 for losses. Junior defensive lineman Joe Cullen owns 4.5 sacks and 6.0 tackles for losses among his 24 tackles.

All-MIAC punter Nick Schlieman highlights the special teams for the Auggies, averaging 41.7 yards per punt with seven of his 26 attempts inside the opponents’ 20-yard line.

Inside the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carleton</th>
<th>Opp.</th>
<th>Scoring Average</th>
<th>First Downs</th>
<th>Rushing Yardage Per Game</th>
<th>Yards per Rush</th>
<th>Passing Yardage Per Game</th>
<th>Total Offense Per Game</th>
<th>Yard per Play</th>
<th>Kick Returns (No.-Avg.)</th>
<th>Punt Returns (No.-Avg.)</th>
<th>Fumbles-Lost</th>
<th>Penalties (No.-Avg.)</th>
<th>Time of Possession-Avg.</th>
<th>3rd Down Conversions</th>
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<th>Sacks</th>
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MIAC Standings

as of 9/27/03          MIAC       Overall
Bethel                 3-0          4-0
Saint John’s           2-0          3-0
Concordia              2-1          3-1
Gustavus               2-1          2-2
Augsburg               1-1          2-2
St. Thomas             1-1          1-3
St. Olaf               1-2          1-3
Carleton               0-3          0-3
Hamiline               0-3          1-3

Games This Week

Hamline at Concordia, 1 p.m.
Carleton at Augsburg, 1 p.m.
Gustavus at St. John’s, 1 p.m.
St. Olaf at St. Thomas, 1 p.m.
Bethel at UW-Eau Claire, 1 p.m.

Last week’s scores

Concordia 45, Carleton 7
Bethel 50, Hamline 6
Gustavus 28, Augsburg 7
St. John’s 45, St. Olaf 6
UW-Stout 51, St. Thomas 3

Games Next Week

Concordia at Augsburg, 1 p.m.
St. John’s at Carleton, 1 p.m.
Bethel at St. Olaf, 1 p.m.
St. Thomas at Gustavus, 1 p.m.
Hamline at Macalester, 1 p.m.

Starters

Offense

12 Darren Capsers QB   Bemidji, Minn.
33 Erik Fisher RB      Maple Lake, Minn.
44 Kevin Hanley FB     Chicago
6 Tyler Young SE       Wheaton, Minn.
77 David Molzahn RT    Hopkins, Minn.
75 Andrew Roberts RG   Rt. Lauderdale, Fl.
52 Bobby McMillan C    New Hope, Minn.
60 David Derksen LG    Rochester, Minn.
50 Travis Monc ferv LT Roseville, Minn.
15 Nate Flaherty WR    Oakdale, Minn.

Defense

7 Tim Blaha DE         Northfield, Minn.
54 Matt Sevick DT      Lake Forest, Ill.
65 Ben Olson DT        Glenwood, Minn.
91 Adam Witt DE        Champlin, Minn.
45 Mike Gravelle LB    Austin, Minn.
38 Randy Ross LB       Hastings, Minn.
51 Andrew Wild LB      Janesville, Wis.
15 Luke Muellerleite SS White Bear Lake, Minn.
18 Dan Karlsard FS     Bainerd, Minn.
38 Nick Brokke CB      Roseville, Minn.
16 Ben Phillips CB      Woodstock, Ill.
Last Year: After Carleton scored on their opening drive Augsburg College reeled off 49 straight points led by T.J. Bramwell’s 170 yards rushing and two touchdowns to beat the Knights at Laird Stadium, 49-6.

The Knights moved the ball 66 yards on 14 plays and quarterback Ben Cooprider (DeKalb, Ill.) took the ball in from four yards out to give Carleton the lead. After blocking the point after, the Auggies marched right back down the field and Bramwell took it in from 10 yards out.

Carleton looked primed to take back the lead after Cooprider heaved a 44-yard bomb to Drew Dean ’03 that brought the Knights to Augsburg’s 20-yard line. The Knights failed to capitalize and turned the ball over on downs.

Bramwell went back to work for the Auggies, finding a seam and taking the ball 60 yards down to the Knights’ 15-yard line. Three plays later Bramwell capped the drive with a two yard plunge to put Augsburg up 14-6.

The game started to get out of hand when Brandon Fox forced Cooprider to fumble and Sam Harmer picked it up and rumbled 49 yards for a touchdown. After the Knights went three and out, Andy Matzke eluded several Carleton defenders on the ensuing punt return on his way to a 56-yard touchdown.

Two interceptions from Cooprider and two more Auggies’ scores made it 42-6 at the half.

Augsburg amassed an amazing 283 yards on the ground and 457 total yards while Carleton’s air attack gained 263 yards and the offense totaled 291 yards.

Erik Fisher (Maple Lake, Minn.) led Carleton on the ground and in the air with 38 yards rushing and 73 yards receiving. Cooprider turned in a solid performance going 20 of 34 for 216 yards. Dave Fransen played a near-flawless game completing 11-of-15 passes for 134 yards and a touchdown.

Carleton’s four home opponents occupy the top four slots in the 2003 preseason MIAC coaches poll.

Strength in sophomores: Carleton’s second-biggest class is the class of 2006, with 21 sophomores dotting the roster. Nine of those 21 are starters with eight of the 10 starting for the second straight season.

Tough home schedule for Knights: Carleton has but four home games on its 2003 slate, and all four will prove to be major tests. The Knights opened the home schedule by hosting Gustavus Adolphus College two weeks ago, falling 24-14. The Knights welcomed last year’s conference runner-up, Concordia College, Moorhead, last week, falling to the Cobbers 45-7. National number two St. John’s University is the Homecoming opponent on Oct. 11, with resurgent Bethel College closing out the home slate on Oct. 25. “Opening up in the MIAC is tough,” Brann said. “Our home schedule is very interesting because we have some of the top teams in the MIAC coming here, but any MIAC school you play is a battle every week – I don’t care who you’re playing or who you are. You’ve got to show up every Saturday or somebody’s going to get you.”

Carleton’s four home opponents occupy the top four slots in the 2003 preseason MIAC coaches poll.
Carleton Quick Facts

School: Carleton College
Location: Northfield, Minn.
Affiliation: NCAA Division III
Conference: MIAC
President: Robert A. Oden, Jr. (o-deen)
Athletic Director: Leon Lunder
Phone: (507)646-4036
Sports Information Director: Eric Sieger
Phone: (507)646-4183
Fax: (507)646-5550
Home: (952)469-2335
Web: www.carleton.edu/athletics/
Email: esieger@carleton.edu
Head Coach: Travis Moncrief
Telephone: (507)646-4054
Fax: (507)646-7040
Alma Mater/Year: West Virginia Wesleyan/1991
Record at school (years): 0-23 (third season)
Career record (yrs.): same
Assistant Coaches:
- Doug Lichtenberger (Offensive Coordinator/QBs)
- Gerald Young (Defensive Coordinator/DL)
- Tom Bell (Running Backs)
- Doug Boe (Wide Receivers/Special Teams)
- Steve LeGrand (Offensive Line)
- Travis Walsh (Linebackers)
- Richard Chorlton (Tight Ends)
Overall record last year: 0-10
MIAC record/finals: 0-8/9th place
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 38/14
Starters Returning/Lost: 20/5
Basic offense: West Coast
Basic defense: Pressure
Captains: Erik Fisher, Travis Moncrief, Andrew Wild
First season: 1883
All-time record: 431-374-25
Championships:
- MIAC: 1924, 1992
Playoff Appearances: One (1992)
Playoff record: 0-1

2003 Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time/Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>St. Olaf College*</td>
<td>L 36-40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Gustavus Adolphus College*</td>
<td>L 34-24</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Concordia College, Moorhead*</td>
<td>L 7-45</td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Augsburg College*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>St. John’s Univ.* (HC)</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Univ. of St. Thomas*</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Bethel College*</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Hamline University*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Macalester College</td>
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<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Colorado College</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
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*indicates MIAC contest

Carleton GameDay Notes

Three Knights remain in national rankings: Three Knights remain in the NCAA national statistical rankings. Running back Erik Fisher is 23rd in rushing with 125.7 yards per game. Junior kicker Pat Barry is 25th in field goals per game with 1.0 per game and sophomore corner back Nick Brokke is sixth in interceptions per game at 1.0 per contest.

Tidbits: Carleton, which averaged only 47.6 yards rushing per game last year, is averaging 173 yards rushing per game this season... Pat Barry is 3-for-3 on field goals this season after going 1-for-4 on field goal attempts last season. The last player to boot two field goals or more in a game for the Knights was James Adducci ’00, who accomplished the feat twice during the 1999 season... Matt Bond (So./Falls Church, Va./George Mason) tallied 11 tackles, seven solo, and recovered a fumble in his first career start last week... Alex Marston leads the Knights with 12 catches for 98 yards... Carleton has converted 41 percent of its third-down plays this season.

Brokke tabbed as MIAC defensive player of the week: Nick Brokke (So./Roseville, Minn.) was named the MIAC’s defensive player of the week last week after tallying three interceptions and nine tackles in the Sept. 20 contest against Gustavus Adolphus College. Brokke’s first pick came early in the contest, stopping a Gustie drive inside Carleton’s 20-yard line. He forced a fumble early in the third quarter on the Carleton goal line, stopping another potential Gustie score. His second interception set up Carleton’s first touchdown, cutting the GAC lead to 24-14. His third and final interception gave the Knights one last chance with 6:30 remaining in the fourth and Carleton trailing by 10. Brokke’s three interceptions doubled his career total. He currently ranks second on the team with 19 tackles, 12 solo.

Next week: Carleton returns home to host St. John’s University on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. The game is part of Homecoming festivities at Carleton. Game time is 1 p.m. The game can be heard on KJMN 1080 AM or live on Knights Online.

Last week: Darren Caspers (Fy./Bemidji, Minn.) was 6-of-15 for 77 yards and Dan Karigaard (Jr./Brainerd, Minn.) tallied 13 tackles, seven solo, but Carleton fell to Concordia-Moorhead 45-7 at Laird Stadium this afternoon.

Carleton forced a three-and-out on Concordia’s first drive and got the ball back on downs on the Cobbers’ second drive. Facing a fourth-and-three from its own 40-yard line midway through the first quarter, Carleton attempted a fake punt, but Concordia sniffed out the play, bringing Carleton’s Wade Thompson (Fy./Peterson, Minn./Rushford-Peterson) down two yards shy of the first down.

Carleton opened the second half with a solid 14-play drive. Caspers moved the Knights to the Cobbers’ 10-yard line, hooking up with Dale Williams (Sr./Bloomington, Minn./Gov. Dunmar, Mass.) for a 24-yard pass play on third-and-long from the 34-yard line of Concordia. After a running play lost three yards, Caspers found Nate Flaherty (Sr./Oakdale, Minn./Tartan) on a bubble screen, which Flaherty took in for an apparent score. The officials called the play back on an offensive pass interference call. The Carleton coaches protested that no foul had occurred since the pass was completed behind the line of scrimmage, but to no avail. On fourth-and-goal from the 28, Caspers’ pass to Flaherty was barely broken up, ending Carleton’s drive.

The Knights got on the board midway through the fourth. After forcing the Cobbers to give the ball back on downs, Caspers hit Williams for a 14-yard gain on third down from the Knights’ 36-yard line. On third-and-five from the Cobber 45, Caspers scrambled for a 28-yard gain. On the next play, Thompson bounded outside, received a great downfield block from Matt Topeff (Fy./Andover, Minn./Blaine) and scored on a 17-yard run.

The Knights’ final drive pushed to Concordia’s 10-yard line, but their 16th play of the drive, a fourth-and-one from the 10, ended in an incomplete pass.

The Cobbers held Carleton’s Erik Fisher (Sr./Maple Lake, Minn.), the sixth-ranked rusher in the nation at more than 170 yards per game, to a meager 26 yards on 16 carries. He now has 921 career rushing yards and 377 rushing yards this season.

Matt Bond (So./Falls Church, Va./George Mason) tallied 11 tackles, seven solo, and recovered a fumble in his first career start. Andrew Wild (Sr./Janesville, Wis./Graig) added 11 tackles as well.